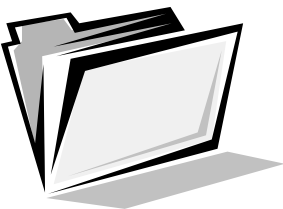


REPORTS
for
2006/7
to
THE
ANNUAL
CHURCH
MEETING
25
25th
2007 NOV.



AGENDA

GENERAL CHURCH MEETING Sunday November 25th 2007

12 NOON FAITH LUNCH

Part A

12.45 p.m. INVITED SPEAKER

Part B

1 p.m. BUSINESS MEETING
Chaired by Revd. David Watson

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes
3. Matters Arising
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Formal presentation of Reports (issued with the November Ambo)
6. Questions arising from Reports
7. Election of Officers-
 - **Church Stewards** Martin Dymond as Senior Steward
 - **Elected reps** to Church Council (1 vacancy)
 - **Project for Church Giving.**
8. 150 years celebrations
9. Church Project 2008/9
10. Transport
11. Holcombe
12. Worship Consultation
13. St. Georges Day Fayre – Co-ordinator needed.
14. Furnishings – M. Still
15. Date of next meeting.
16. Closing devotions/remembrances and Communion.

SUMMARY of LAST CHURCH AGM

held on Sunday 26th November 2006

The proceedings commenced with a Faith Lunch at 12 noon and official business started at 12.45 p.m.

There were 68 members present and 17 apologies as detailed in the Minute Book. A crèche for the children was also provided. The Superintendent Minister, Rev. David Watson chaired the meeting and led opening Devotions.

The meeting took the follow format – Apologies for absence, Adoption of Minutes, Matters Arising and Treasurer's Report delivered by Bernard Haddrell.

Adoption of Reports as presented with November's Ambo

Matters highlighted from Reports.

Treasurer's report :

Charity giving represented 12% of our income

Restricted funds

Worship furniture

General re-organisation of church

General depreciation value of effects, laptop, etc. etc.

Bernard thanked from Chair for his work as Treasurer

Learning Nurture and Evangelism – Our foundation is good. We were urged to spread the gospel in whatever way and the best way we could. Concerns expressed were the state of the world, the young people of our church, and the need for trained leaders

We need a better understanding of the Bible, how to respond to direct questions concerning our faith, and other faiths.

BFG and SMASH thanked for work with Bazaar.

Service Team – Church Project – recommendations of team accepted.

SCENES – AMBO – Martin suggested sponsorship for production of a more professional look to cover of such publication.

NCH - thanks extended from Chair for work done by Carol and Marilyn.

War Memorial plaque – This has not been moved.

Christmas Celebrations.

Different siting of Christmas Tree.

Eunice Vickers wished to place a small tree at front of church

Request for Prayer Tree to be available in church for Town Shopping Evening
Resignation of Eunice Vickers as official church florist with effect from January 2007 and Charlene Green as elected representative to Church Council and Carol Wright as Steward.

A vote of thanks given by Chair to all who work for and in the church in any way.

A vote of thanks was also given to the Rev David Watson for all his work in and around the church community in Midsomer Norton.

150 years celebration – committee are in process of being formed and planning their first meeting.

Date of next meeting – Sunday 25th November 2006. at 12 noon

Meeting closed at 2 p.m. followed by an epilogue, remembrances of those called to higher service during 2006 and Communion led by our own Minister, Rev. David Watson.

Full copies of the Minutes can be obtained from Janet on request.

REPORTS in Alphabetical Order [almost!]

**ACCOUNTS/TREASURER'S REPORT not on web site,
but in separate booklet, available on request.**

BREAKFAST PRAISE

Breakfast Praise continues to go well, reaching families on the fringe of the church's life, as well as those more involved. Many people with young families welcome the child friendly atmosphere, where they can relax knowing that their children are accepted just as they are, rather than worrying about whether they are running around or noisy. We have kept to the usual format of modern songs, crafts, sketches, short talk and prayer for five years now and feel that the time has come to look at the way we do things and update it. Any ideas or thoughts on that would be very appreciated!

If you haven't been along to Breakfast Praise and can face coming for breakfast at 9am, do come and join us, we'd love to see you, (especially if you bring a friend!!)

Jill & Julie.

C A M E O

Come And Meet Each Other

We held nine events during the year, nearly all of which were well attended and appreciated. The most popular events were an evening of swimming at Fosse Way School pool, followed by a fish and chip supper, carols in the hall after evening service in December, skittles at Midsomer Norton Cricket Club in February, a Barn Dance in March and an indoor Barbecue in the hall in June. A Bristol ferry ride and visit to SS Great Britain were also much enjoyed by a smaller number of people.

There are only three members of the planning group – Denise, Ethne and Marjorie and more would be welcome. It has been suggested that this small group should continue to plan the overall programme, but delegate responsibility for running each event to a wider group. (Sarah has already offered to organise the December carol event.)

Marjorie.

CHOIR

The choir has faced many changes during the course of this last year. In late Spring we bade farewell to Douglas at a special lunch at Ammerdown, thanking him for his contributions to the musical life of the church as singer, composer and organist. He has now happily settled into his new home at Northampton, close to his family.

Out two new recruits, John and Randall, are now firmly 'embedded' adding much needed extra power in the lower registers. We are also most fortunate that they are also using their skills as organists and are both playing regularly each month.

David can also be glimpsed now more frequently, sitting (and singing) in the back row - in his father's old seat? Having completed well over 40 years as the church's Chief Organist, he feels it is now time to take a less permanent role; and the choir in particular, wish to thank him most warmly for all his dedicated service, not only on Sundays but on countless Friday evening practices and many other occasions over the years. Les is now kindly organising the rotas; and Simon feels able to offer more time as an accompanist.

Some of our members have had other challenges to face. Margaret, our Musical Director, has had major back surgery this year; while at the time of writing,

Audrey awaits heart surgery at Bristol Royal Infirmary. Our thoughts and prayers are with her.

All these changes have meant that we have not met quite so regularly for practice this year. However we continue to prepare and sing introits, extroits and anthems when appropriate and/or possible; and as always would be delighted to welcome new singers.

Elizabeth.

DEB8+ (DEBATE)

The Debate housegroup, meeting fortnightly, has had a wonderful year with the courses and Bible Studies that we have followed. We continued in our studies of the book of Revelation, and then took a completely different tack, with following the Lent study on the film *Chocolat*. Watching parts of the DVD, and debating about how the issues raised in the film relate to our lives today, was very inspirational. We then did a study on the Gospel of John, and have now just started a study based around the film *Amazing Grace*. Our housegroup has a very relaxed attitude, and we would love to welcome any new members who would like to join us.

Jill.

FINGERS & THUMBS PUPPET GROUP

The puppet group was formed late last year, and I believe the young people have enjoyed working with them. There have been songs and plays that have involved all or many of the puppets, and some shorter sketches that have had two or three taking part. The telling of the Nativity story last Christmas was well received as well as the story of Jonah at the Whitfunday. Unfortunately, due to my illness, the puppet group hasn't done as much in this last year as we would have liked, but we are working on new pieces, and we look forward to using them in worship over the coming months.

We would also like to give our sincere thanks to those who have donated money and puppets to us during the last year.

Jill.

FRIDAY POP-IN follows Gift Aid to keep all the figures on one page!

GIFT AID

Thank you to all contributors who have gift aided their contributions to the Church. You can see from my report below the benefit which the Church receives from these contributions.

From April 2008 (2008/09 Tax Year) the amount of tax we will be able to reclaim is being reduced by 2%. Therefore, it is important that any tax payer making contributions does so by way of gift aid. I will be pleased to hear from any tax payer who would like to gift aid their contributions or requires further information. Contributions can be made by tax payers and non tax payers alike by envelopes or bankers order. I can be contacted after Sunday service or on 01761 412837.

I should like to take this opportunity of reminding everyone that it is a requirement that pink envelopes must be **fully** completed every time with the fund, contributors number or name and address and date and this includes retiring collections.

Thank you all once again for your continuing support.

Gift Aid for the tax years	2006/07	2005/06	2004/05
No of Active Long Term Declarations in force	101	98	106
Net Increase (Decrease) during year	3	(8)	4
<u>Est. No. of Individuals included in LTD</u>	<u>134</u>	<u>125</u>	<u>135</u>
Amount Gift Aided Weekly/Monthly	£34089	£32982	£34293
Amount per declaration	£338	£336	£323
Amount per Individual	£254	£264	£254
Total amount Gift Aided (inc one off appeals using pink/gift day envelopes)	£39475	£38944	£42516
Total Tax recovered (after Admin)	£10871	£10780	£11717

Ann, Gift Aid Secretary

FRIDAY POP-IN

Friday Pop-In has just celebrated its 22nd birthday and still carries on in its own sweet way.

It was started as, and still is, a place to come and have a 'natter and a cuppa'.

From its inception all profits have been donated to local charities, large and small. After the church decided to have a yearly Church Project all profits have been channelled to that cause.

Last year (2006-7) £1,430 was donated to Church 'Bibles for Children'.

Why not come along any or every Friday 10 - 11.30 am and enjoy the best and cheapest coffee or cuppa (mugs no extra cost!) in Norton, where we use Traidcraft Goods, and support the Church Project.

Cyril & Audrey.

GUILD

The attendance at Guild has averaged about 26 and we have been pleased to welcome more people sometimes when we have had a speaker like Simon Knight giving us Springtime Garden tips.

At our Summer Coffee Evenings we raised £200 and this has enabled us to give money to a speaker who supports a particular charity or a gift chosen at the AGM.

We have been given an insight into the life of a Christian Social Worker by Marian Prior, and of a Christian Headmistress, and discussed with Colin Farrant the ethical decisions he had to make.

We have enjoyed informative and amusing talks by the husband of the District Guild Secretary, Mike Dean, who is a Bristol Tourist Guide, and what it is like to live with a Japanese family and have a most unusual bath, (no lying in dirty water like we do!).

Those who attend, have enjoyed the evenings, (which include a friendly chat over a cup of coffee), more than an evening in front of the television. Please come when you can as you may have a pleasant surprise.

Trevor.

JAM CLUB - Jesus And Me

We are now in our fourth year and current numbers meeting each week are 12.

We concentrate mainly on crafts and games which involve a certain amount of discipline and sharing with each other. We believe they learn a great deal of skills by taking part in these activities. We have had a 'trip' around the church both inside and out and explained the various aspects of the building. Most encouraging was when we sat them down for a quiet moment we were asked whether we could sing a 'Jesus' song!. We also work on topical events as well.

During the summer months we enjoyed a trip to the park, visits to the Zany Zone where they let off steam, literally, and swimming. We also enjoyed walks

and taking part in a treasure hunt on the school field which ended with a traditional BBQ. There is always room for more members.

Janet, Jill, Charlene and Jack.

LEARNING, NUTURE & EVENAGELISM

The **Learning Nurture & Evangelism** Team is a small group within the Church, under the authority of church council, overseeing the 'spiritual development' (for example, fellowship groups, prayer ministry and trails) and outreach activities of the Church. As an enabling team, our task is to help move the whole church forward in these areas, as we believe every member, in their walk with God, has a need for encouragement and a ministry to share. Our desire is to see a people growing, deepening and sharing in faith, and we arrange a number of activities to try and encourage that. Over the year we have been involved in a number of activities , such as Whitfunday and the Bible Sunday and Reading Notes promotions. We meet approximately every six weeks. All ideas and suggestions welcomed!

John, Convenor.

MENS' FELLOWSHIP

Men's Breakfast and Evening Groups – 2005/06 & 2006/07

After initial preparation, meetings commenced monthly in October 2005. Circuit and local churches were mailed twice, but regrettably with little response. There is reluctance to bring speakers any distance for varying numbers.

Breakfast Meeting

We have been well served by all our speakers, several of whose talks have been summarised in the *Ambo* magazine. It's a pity that Saturday mornings at 8.30am is not a popular time, especially for those in work desperate to wind down after a heavy week and when the frost is on the ground! Still those who have made it have been challenged and encouraged in their faith and the issues of the day. Thanks to our breakfast providers and washer-uppers!

In September, we 'played away' and had a cooked breakfast at Radstock's Fairtrade Tea Rooms, inviting members of other churches and considering a Christian Vision for our locality – to be repeated next year. We welcome men from other local churches.

Thank you to all those who responded to the questionnaire sent round in the summer – the replies have been helpful.

Evening Group

Unfortunately this never really took off, though the times of fellowship were appreciated. Back to the drawing board or the LN&E Group.

David.

METHODIST CRICKET CLUB

Report for 2007 season

Having switched to a different Saturday league over the winter, Midsomer Norton Methodists CC enjoyed a very successful 2007, winning eleven matches

and topping North Somerset League Division 5. Despite losing Team Captain Stuart to a dislocated shoulder for half of the campaign, the squad managed to excel in all departments. The bowlers showed great form all season - Craig impressively taking 40 wickets and topping the Division 5 table - which was matched by the eagerness and athleticism of the team's fielding, while the batting also flourished with the likes of David and John piling up runs for the team. Most importantly however, the game was always played in the right spirit and, as a result, a good time was enjoyed by all involved.

2007 Results - Played 20 Won 11 Lost 6 Tied 1 Drawn 1 Abandoned 1.

Highest Run Scorers:

David B 578 runs @ average of 34.00, Highest Score 87

John 293 runs @ 146.50, H.S. 99

Richard 271 runs @ 38.71, H.S. 57not out.

Highest Wicket Takers:

Craig 40 wkts @ average of 10.65, Best Bowling 6-35

David B 26 wkts @ 10.15, B.B. 4-3

Daniel 26 wkts @ 12.00, B.B. 5-12.

Daniel.

MINI-BUS

We have had a good year once again ferrying members to and from Church once a month. Sadly we said goodbye to Joan Hughes who used the bus.

We still collect two wheel chaired passengers, plus several other passengers making the running of bus still a valuable asset. Everyone seems to enjoy the getting together, which the bus brings, and the escorts and driver continue to make themselves available each month.

Long may it continue. If anyone would like to get involved with escorting or driving, please let me know.

Carol.

MONDAY CLUB (2)

This attended by approximately fifteen members, aged from eleven to fifteen. Two youngsters moved from Monday Club 1 – Josh and Monica - and we gained one new member – Lewis.

We have continued to provide a wide variety of activities, both on and off the premises. Members have taken part in a pancake evening, a film evening with fish and chips, craft sessions, social and electronic games, a scavenger hunt and an indoor barbecue and have enjoyed ten-pin bowling, skittles, and swimming on visits out.

During the rather poor summer weather, it was not possible to have as many evenings on the field, but we did manage one game of rounders and a treasure hunt around the town.

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We are still looking for offers of younger leaders for the club, to cover one or two evenings a month. Meanwhile, Kathy, Jeremy, Carol, Jane and Marjorie – with occasional help from Paul – continue to hold the fort. Zoe is not now able to continue because of a changed working pattern and Sarah is leading in the younger group only.

Marjorie.

NCH

Well, this year has been quite a good year, financially, with the Sponsored Walk raising over £600.00 and Home Boxes raising £253.00.

Add to that retiring collections at Christmas time and also on NCH Sunday makes the total raised during the year: £1,054.00

Thank you to everyone who gives so generously every year.

Carol & Marilyn.

PASTORAL VISITORS

Your Pastoral Visitors met together in the afternoon of their October meeting, however this was felt not to be as convenient as their evening meetings.

At the moment, membership numbers stand at 199. We have welcomed 5 new members from incoming transfers, but have lost 2 members through transferring elsewhere - Douglas Richings and Marjorie Marsh, and our very best wishes go with them both as they relocate nearer their families.

Sadly, we have lost 8 friends through death, this year and our hearts go out to their families and friends. They were remembered in our prayers at the meeting and I'm sure at many other times by their friends in our church.

A reminder to everyone that we have a Flower Book to record delivery of flowers to the housebound or sick. Please ask at Reception or after the Sunday evening service if you would like to take flowers or have them delivered. Also there is a 'Telephone Ministry' book held at Reception. Receptionists refer to this to make contact with friends who need to know we are thinking of them. Please ask at reception for names to be added to this list.

Finally, a big thank you, once again, to our Pastoral Visitors - please try to make them welcome when they visit - it is not always an easy task, and remember them in your prayers. They are showing us the Love of God through Christ in Midsomer Norton.

Una.

RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Introduction

Another year of looking after the church resources has gone by. Several things have changed and new members have joined the committee as others have moved on.

As ever the committee keeps a keen eye on the finances of the church with a view to advising the Church Council on priorities with respect to decoration and building upkeep, dealing with emergencies and seeking confirmation before any significant spending takes place.

Property Management

During the last year we have seen the completion of the rear screen and, more recently, the renewal of the boiler in the Church.

The fans for the small hall are ordered and will be fitted soon.

The improvement to the sound system in the Church has seen progress with still more items to be included as time moves on. There is now a CCTV camera for the sound engineers to see more clearly what is happening.

The Church roof has been inspected and treated as well as the squirrel problem dealt with.

The rats in the link roof were a difficult problem to deal with and are the subject of continued inspection and control.

Very recently we have seen a new set of chairs arrive in the hall. These have been purchased to replace older and less reliable chairs.

Some time ago the Church Council asked a sub-committee to investigate replacing the furniture at the front of the church. This sub-committee has been reporting its progress to Church Council via the Resources Committee and have recently reached a conclusion on the recommendations that are to be made. Information on the proposed furniture has been on display for some time and will also be on display during the Church meeting and in the Church. If you have any comments or questions please make them known to Church Council, either directly or via the Resources Committee if you prefer.

The Church Centre

The Church Centre, both the hall and the Church, are used regularly for both Church-associated and outside hirers. The cleaning and upkeep requirements for this use continue to be handled by the staff, volunteers and helpers that look after the centre for all of us.

The Resources Committee continue to extend their grateful thanks to all those who assist in the efficient and smooth running of the Church Centre on a day to day basis.

Finance

Please see the treasurer's report for details.

Conclusion

Again may I thank the members of the Resources Committee, and as ever, especially Sarah, our minute secretary, for their help and co-operation during the past year and as a committee we look forward to supporting the future work of our church and its fabric.

SCENES

Supporting Church Editors in NE Somerset

Three meetings were held last year, the first of which was at Compton Martin the home of one of the editors, but generally folk like M N as it is central and has on site parking!

The main problem is attracting more members - we have a core of 4 regulars sometime another 3 attending. The notes of this year's first meeting, circulated to some 20+ local editors, also included a questionnaire regarding non-attendance. Time will tell if answers can make a difference.

The highlight of the year was the ACE Workshop 31st March. According to feedback and the following meeting discussion, this went well, much to the relief of myself who had been left to organise it (as the chairman of ACE said 'he hadn't given as much pre-support as he had others!'). Comments received said 'workshop was great', speakers were very informative, and 'the food was excellent', 'congratulations all round' - one of the speakers was our own Rev. Mandy Stevens.

After the workshop one editor had gone away, bought a 'desk-top publisher' programme and revised her way of preparing her magazine. One attendee (assisting an editor) had gone back 'all-fired-up' with new ideas but was having difficulties with the established elderly editor. He came to our last meeting 'fed-up' and thinking of 'packing it in', so we spent time discussing his situation and offering suggestions and support.

That alone emphasized the need for groups such as ours. Our next meeting is Thursday 7th February 2008.

Thank you to all who bring back other churches magazines. If they do not mention ACE I always e-mail (though some don't have contact e-mails!! [nor even addresses]) to ensure they are aware of the organisation and mention about local groups. Help is out there for new ideas and support from others.

Regarding our own magazine *The Ambo*, by comments made, folk seem to like the new photo covers and I have sponsors to take us up to next September. Costs have been more than anticipated but I have taken that up with the Treasurer and no doubt it will be raised in the AGM.

As I have said before 'IT IS YOUR MAGAZINE' so please pass me items of interest for others to read, keep me up to date with what is happening, tell me your funny stories etc. but please remember about copyright before copying from other people's publications - you must get permission to use it.

Martin.

SERVICE TEAM

The Service Team currently consists of Martin, Dee, Graham, Brian & John. Rev. David Watson attends most meetings. We accepted Trevor's resignation and thanked him for his valuable contribution to the team from the start. We welcomed Brian in Trevor's place and look forward to working with him. This is only the second change to the team since it's inception.

The Service Team has done its best to adhere to the remit set out in the original 'Our Calling' paper sent down from Conference at the start of the millennium, by quietly beavering away in the background identifying agencies in the locality and further afield, and building links where possible. Examples of the result of past co-operation are the Farmers' Markets, using resources of our hall premises and now an established monthly event, being in its third year. (Note: In future Oct - March in our Hall; April - Sept. in the Hollies Garden following a trial period). Also in their third year, Age Concern use the Hall as a twice-weekly Day Centre. On-going links with the Carnival Club and Chamber of Commerce have ensured our focal presence in the annual Mardi Gras and Christmas Late Night Shopping events, with all this entails.

More recently we have established links (potentially) with up to 30 or so local bodies covering health, education, police, libraries, youth work, churches etc. through the 'Inter Agency Forum' which also comprise representative members from B&NES, which meet for a two-hour 'working lunch' in the Hollies Council Chamber every two to three months.

Diary Dates:

Friday 7th December - Town Late Night Shopping Evening.

Saturday 21st June - Town 'Medieval Day' 11am - 4pm.

Church Project 2006/7 - Bibles for Children

Grateful thanks from Mr. Ted Hudson and Trustees for the £4,764 raised over the year.

Church Project 2007/8 - Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance

Church Council have agreed to increase our 'target' from £3,000 to £3,500. As we all know the lower target has been comfortably exceeded each year for several years and we look forward to another enjoyable year of fund-raising for our chosen cause, which, we trust, will be comfortably beyond the new target. (Over £1,200 so far). MORE IDEAS ALWAYS WELCOMED!

Church Project 2008/9 - Question for debate at AGM

An idea which has been considered by Church Council, but referred to the Church AGM. 2009 marks the 150th anniversary of the Methodist Church building in M N High Street. Therefore the Service Team recommends the

suggestion put to it as follows: *That 50% of monies raised should go towards the 150th Anniversary celebratory costs + 50% to a developing church - possibly overseas.*

Finally, John has given formal notice of his wish to resign the post of Convenor to the Service Team with effect a s a p, but certainly no later than August 2008. Anyone interested, please see David, John or any Service Team member without obligation.

John.

STOP-OFF

The past year has been a very busy, but successful one again for Stop-Off. The number of patrons each week seem well satisfied and I am pleased to say the band of loyal helpers have been as conscientious and willing as ever to keep this outreach of the church continuing,

We did have the month of August off and this gave a welcome break.

In October some members will have undergone the necessary hygiene course again. Cyril informs me that from our Christmas meal last year we were able to donate £475.95 to the Church Project. Also £10,500 was given to the church towards its maintenance.

Finally, I would like to thank the Youth Club members and Leaders who help get the chairs and tables in place after their club ends on a Monday evening. This is much appreciated.

A warm welcome is extended to friends to come along on Tuesdays. My thanks to all our Helpers.

Fred.

WHIST CLUB

Our numbers have increased and everyone seems to enjoy their afternoon of whist.

If you would like a game of 'friendly' cards or know of anyone who would, please let us know. We meet on Fridays at 2pm in the Small Hall (Sept - May).

Fred.

WIVES'

Last year at Wives' has been a good one, I hope. As always, I will not cease in thanking the committee of Doreen, Maureen, Eileen, Ann, Mary, Lorraine for putting together an excellent and varied programme of speakers. It is reflected in a good attendance each time. So, I thank you ladies for your support. Rev. David Watson presided over our AGM, and the above committee was re-elected.

To end the 2006/7 season of meetings before the summer recess, we enjoyed an evening visit to the Lavender Farm at Faulkland, arranged by Eileen. This is evidence of another farmer diversifying his business in another direction.

We look forward to 2007-2008. This year we host the Annual Wives' Groups Carol Service on Wednesday December 5th, 7.45 p.m.

A warm welcome to anyone wanting to join us.

Helen.

WORLDWIDE WARES - (TRADCRAFT)

Now and again we get asked whether it is better to buy goods from a fair-trade company such as Traidcraft or from the local supermarkets. Below is the official response from Traidcraft:

"Although it is good to shop in supermarkets to show that there is a demand for fair trade, there are a number of benefits to buying from exclusively fair trade companies such as Traidcraft.

Traidcraft exists to fight poverty through trade, and thus by buying direct from us you are contributing to our continued wider work. We seek continually to push fair trade into new areas and our fair trade standards go above and beyond the minimum criteria guaranteed by the Fairtrade Mark.

We thus hope that those keen to support fair trade in its fullest form will continue to buy Traidcraft branded products rather than the Fairtrade products of commercial companies".

Due to your continued support of our stall (at the Friday Pop In and after the morning service on the last Sunday of each month) we have been able to support two charities working in the developing world. FarmAfrica and Water Aid each received a cheque from us for £250.00.

Once again our thanks to Rod Cowley for taking on the mammoth task of getting our accounts prepared for audit.

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We now have Christmas cards from Traidcraft and Tearfund on sale so why not come over to the stall and have a browse.

Lorraine and Elizabeth.

WORSHIP GROUP

Members:- Elizabeth, Margaret, Jill, Madge, Simon, Jane, Janet, Julie and Alastair, David Watson. – Retiring member, Cathy. Convenor:- Marjorie.

The meetings have been lively and productive and we have carefully considered correspondence from organists and members of the congregation.

- It has been decided to purchase copies of the complete Mission Praise – the present copies are disintegrating – but a slight difficulty over funding has to be addressed.
- The introduction of envelopes at Harvest, for contributions to the Methodist Relief and Development Fund, has been well received and supported. Local Arrangement preachers during the year provided a variety of well conducted services and we especially enjoyed the visit of Marilyn Tricker for the Church Anniversary celebration in July.

Our aims for the coming year are :-

- to introduce a Café style service on fifth Sundays at 6pm
- to form a group to plan all the festival services with the minister – not just the Carol Service – so that all involved (including sound technician and organist) are well informed.
- to put on a production at one of the festivals.
- to return to the stewards the responsibility of covering LAs

to investigate altering the pattern of morning services slightly to the following :-

1st Sunday Communion

2nd Sunday Breakfast Praise, followed by traditional Morning Worship

3rd Sunday All Age Worship

4th Sunday introduction by the Worship Band, who will also accompany the hymns throughout the service. (Simon Knight has offered to play the keyboard for this)

[This is to make it possible for Breakfast Praise members to attend Communion and to ensure that the Worship Band (and all the gear) are present at an ordinary service, rather than a meditative Communion Service] The Worship Band will also experiment with standing to one side near and in front of the pulpit, rather than in the centre.

We are very lucky to have such talented people in the Church and we thank all those who plan services, read lessons, take part in drama and provide music to

enhance the worship. A great deal of time and effort is involved. (N B Constructive and helpful comments are welcomed, but negative criticism, immediately following a service, is extremely hurtful to those who have spent three hours practising the night before!)

YOUTH CHURCH

This year our numbers have remained constant around the 50 mark ranging in age from a few months to 18 year olds. (I am pleased to see that this has been my opening sentence to these reports for the last 5 years).

In September we saw James leave for University in Loughborough and wish him well with his studies and hope to see him back for the occasional game of football and 'uni hock' in the holidays (although I fear he will be much fitter after his sports science studies.)

We have continued our format this year of

First Sunday	Youth Church
Second Sunday	Breakfast Praise followed by Activities
Third Sunday	All Together Worship
Fourth Sunday	Youth church

Thanks to our new leaders of John and Denise we have been able this year to make a new group for the teenagers on a Sunday morning so that activities can be arranged that are more suitable for the widening age range that we have.

I have welcomed Janice's help with the younger age group this year.

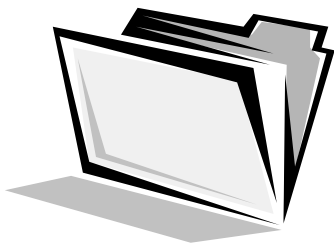
Charlene and Sue continue to look after the infants with Sarah overseeing the crèche with the help of Kerrie when needed.

We have been pleased to see the puppet group being incorporated into more services. Particularly well received was the puppets Christmas Nativity. We hope to see more of them in the future. We thank Jill for her leadership of this group which the young people like performing in and watching.

As we start the new year Jill and John have started a new Sunday evening discussion (pizza eating!!!!!!) group for the older teenagers I look forward to hearing more about the group and we wish them well with this new initiative.

We can always use extra help if there is anyone out there who would like to work with our young people on a Sunday or during the week.

Helen.



MIDSOMER
NORTON
METHODIST
CHURCH

MISSION STATEMENT

*Our mission is to reflect God's
love in everything we do so
that others may be encouraged
to come to faith in Christ.*

